

Connecticut TANF / JFES

Summary and Analysis of Engagement in Additional Activities

April - June 2011

The below report is a summary and analysis of Engagement in Additional Work Activities by Work-Eligible individuals who received Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) Cash Assistance in Connecticut from April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011.

The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 required additional reporting by states for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), as it extended funding through September 30, 2011.

Background:

Section 812 of the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 modifies section 411 of the Social Security Act by requiring each state to submit a Report on Engagement in Additional Work Activities (ACF-812). This second reporting period is from April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011 and is due August 31, 2011. The first report covered the month of March 2011 and was submitted on or before May 31, 2011. This narrative report shall be posted on an internet website maintained by the state agency responsible for administering the state program. The data report is transmitted directly to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families using the Federal TANF Data Reporting System (FTDRS)

Further guidance was provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program Instruction, Transmittal No. TANF-ACF-PI-2011-03. ACF is the federal regulatory agency overseeing the TANF program.

Report Intent and Requirements:

Intent is to determine if work-eligible participants engaged in any activities that are aimed at achieving self-sufficiency?

For this report, Connecticut analyzed data from the Department of Social Services Eligibility Management System (EMS) and the Department of Labor's Connecticut Works Business System (CTWBS) to:

- Determine whether the individual engages in any activities that are directed toward attaining self-sufficiency and track activities that do not qualify but may reasonably help families achieve self-sufficiency
- Track work-eligible participants that are assigned to activities but hours do not meet the participation rate **or** if limits on assigned activities have exceeded maximum limit (e.g., vocational education or job search);
- Track individuals if the number of individuals exceed a limit
- Determine the principal reason(s) for work-eligible individuals that had no hours or participation

States must collect and report the following information, with respect to each work-eligible individual in a family receiving TANF or SSP-MOE assistance during the reporting period:

TANF Data Reporting System:

In Connecticut, the process for reporting into the Federal TANF Data Reporting System (FTDRS) is based on a randomly selected sample of the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) and Jobs First Employment data. This process is automated and the data fields are populated directly from the Eligibility Management System (EMS). This report on Engagement for April- June 2011 is based on the work-eligible individuals included in the April, May, and June 2011 client data samples submitted in FTDRS.

Connecticut does not use estimation techniques or further sampling of the data included and drawn from the data sampling process. It is based on the statistical and sampling procedures mandated by ACF. Each year the data reporting elements are reviewed and a sampling plan is revised and submitted to the Regional ACF office to ensure compliance with federal program requirements and to affirm statistically acceptable levels of reliability and validity. All of the sample data files that are submitted into the federal reporting system are reviewed and validated by Connecticut Departments of Social Services and Labor.

Work Participation Rate

Federal law requires that States have a minimum of 50% Work Participation Rate (WPR) - 50% of the work-eligible adults must be in countable work activities in order to maintain compliance with program requirements and avoid federal penalties. TANF Caseload Reduction Credit allows for a reduction of the 50% Work Participation Rate, per a calculation of the prior year's caseload and expenditures.

The data from this report identifies Connecticut's Work Participation Rate (WPR) to equal 41.5% for the April – June, 2011 quarter, with April 2011 WPR = 45.5%, May 2011 WPR = 36.5% and June 2011 WPR = 42.8%. These rates are unofficial, as the Administration for Children and Families will perform the final calculation after the end of the federal fiscal year, once all client data has been reported, verified and updated. Connecticut's Caseload Reduction Credit for federal fiscal year 2011 is calculated to be 27.3%, which allows the actual work participation rate requirement to be equal to or exceed the target rate of 22.7% (50% minus 27.3% CRC). Connecticut's unofficial WPR exceeds the target rate.

Countable Work Activities:

Connecticut TANF / Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) Work Activities - in accordance with Federal Regulations, 45 CFR Part 261 Ensuring That Recipients Work, require the following:

Single parents with children 6 years or older, meet the federal participation requirements if they participate in a countable activity for 30 hours a week for each week they are receiving Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) Cash benefit. Single parents with children under 6 years old meet the federal participation requirements if they participate for 20 hours.

Core Activities

- Unsubsidized employment;
- Subsidized employment (Private or Public Sector);
- On-The-Job-Training (OJT);
- Job Search and Job Readiness (time-limited& no more than 4 weeks consecutive);
- Community Service Program; and
- Vocational Education Training (no more than 12 months)

Participation in the following activities may also count toward the participation requirement as long as the client has participated in 20 hours of “Core” activities (listed above) during the same week.

Non-Core Activities

- Job Skills Training directly related to employment;
- Education Directly Related to Employment (and/or in the Employment Plan); and
- Secondary School or GED program (Teen Parents)

Activities and hours must be verified. All other activities are considered ‘non-countable’

Summary and Analysis

Data gathered for the April – June 2011 quarter, to meet this new reporting requirement, helps to demonstrate that a large percent of the work-eligible clients were participating in countable activities, and in activities that lead to self-sufficiency but are not counted in the work participation rate due the federal requirements in counting activities and hours. In the April – June 2011 quarter TANF/TFA Data Samples, of the 463 individuals who are considered to be “work-eligible” as defined by the federal agency, 192 individuals (41.5%) met the federal work participation rate requirements. An additional 85 work-eligible individuals (18.4%) had hours in countable work activities, but the hours did not meet the minimum federal requirements to be counted in the work participation rate. Seventeen (17) work-eligible individuals (3.7%) participated in activities with hours that exceeded the maximum allowed for Job Search, Job Readiness, and/or Vocational Education. Twenty-Seven (27) work-eligible individuals (5.8%) participated in non-countable activities but are activities that are considered to help families achieve self-sufficiency. The principal activity being Assessment. There were 187 work-eligible individuals (40.4%) that had no participation, with the principal reason being identified as the “Family Disregarded from Participation,” for 98 of the 187 individuals. - The second highest reason was for being in the “Failed to Engage,” for 42 of the 187 individuals. And, the third highest reason to have no participation was for “First Month on Assistance,” for 37 of the 187 individuals. There were no work-eligible individuals identified as in countable activities that were identified as “State Not To Report” nor in the “Federal Verification Standard” category. Please refer to the chart below for details on the data summary and analysis.

Analysis Statement

Analysis of the April-June, 2011 data regarding ‘work-eligible’ individuals in Connecticut receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cash Benefits, in Connecticut illustrates that in addition to the 192 individuals (41.5%) that met the work participation rate, 85 other individuals or an additional 18.4%, have demonstrated engagement in “countable” activities that are or may otherwise be reasonably considered to help families achieve self-sufficiency. If these additional activities were to be included in the federal requirements, then Connecticut’s Work Participation Rate for March, 2011 shows the potential to equal 59.9% without using Caseload Reduction Credit.

**Summary and Analysis of Engagement in Activities by
Work-Eligible Individuals receiving TFA in Connecticut
April 1 - June 30, 2011**

Total Clients in the File	463
Countable/Met Rate	192
Unofficial Participation Rate	41.5%
<hr/>	
Item 10 - Had Hours, But Too Few To Meet Rate	
Count of Clients in this Category	85
Unsubsidized Employment	31
Subsidized Employment Private	0
Subsidized Employment Public	0
Work Experience	0
On-The-Job-Training (OJT)	0
Job Search/Job Readiness	53
Community Service	1
Vocational Education	5
Job Skills Training	0
Education	3
High School Attendance	0
Child Care Services	0
<hr/>	
Item 11 - Activities Beyond Countable # of Hrs	
Count of Clients in this Category	17
Job Search/ Job Readiness	17
Vocational Education	0
<hr/>	
Item 12 - Couldn't Meet Verification Standard	
Count of Clients in this Category	0
<hr/>	
Item 13 - Participated in Non-Countable Activities	
Count of Clients in this Category	27
High School/General Educational Development (GED)	0
Adult Basic Ed.(ABE)/English as Second Language (ESL)	0
Post Secondary Education	0
Treatment Activities	0
Family Life Skills	0
Work Support	6
In Assessment	21
<hr/>	
Item 14 – Work-Eligible Person Engaged in Work Activity	276
Reason Person Had No Participation	
Count of Clients in this Category	187
First Month on Assistance	37
Assigned Activity, Has not yet begun	0
Failed to Engage	42
Family Disregarded from Participation	98
State Exemption Due to Illness or Disability	2
Other State Exemption	8